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THE DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF FISH IN ELK RIVER.

Mr. Editor: Until about the year 1857 there were no fish in Elk River above the Big Falls except small minnows; and about this date Lewis B. Banner and Levi Moody's sons brought fish in buckets from the head of Toe river and stocked Elk river with speckled trout. As this section was sparsely settled at that time and there being very little cleared land along the streams, the fish increased rapidly and Elk was known far and wide for a great number of years as a fine fishing stream, but as the country became more densely populated and the clearings along the streams became more extensive, the speckled trout began to diminish in numbers and but very few grew to be of very much size.

A little more than twenty years ago a few small fish of other varieties of trout were put in Elk river and Cranberry creek, and now we have four distinct varieties of trout in addition to the speckled trout. A number of other streams in this mountain section have the Rainbow, but if any other has the three last named I have no knowledge of it. As I have had occasion to observe the different markings and general appearance of these I will give a description of each kind of fish. The Rainbow has a broad red stripe along its sides and the larger the fish the broader the stripe, and the red is of a darker hue and the fish appears to be broader up and down than the other three following. The California trout appear to have neither red specks nor spots and not the stripe of the Rainbow, and the sides have a silvery appearance. The Dolly Varden, or Maima has large red spots along its sides, with dark spots behind its head and along the back. This fish is not quite as broad as the Rainbow up and down but is more chuffy. The European Brown trout is more slim and round-bodied than the others; it has the red spots on its sides and is rather yellow or light brown underneath.

These large varieties are more prolific than the speckled trout and as large trout seem to be disposed to eat smaller fishes and minnows, it is seldom that a speckled trout is caught except at the head of the streams.

It is not generally known how or when the Dolly Varden and European and Brown trout were put in Elk river and not in the other streams; but Mr. T. A. Love told me that he wrote to the late Judge Jeter C. Pritchard while he was in the United States Senate, and requested him to have a small shipment sent to him with a view of putting them in Linville river, but owing to the delay in the delivery of a telegram advising him of the delivery, the little trout were dumped into Cranberry creek and they soon went down into Elk river; hence Elk and its tributaries became stocked with these larger trouts.

New river, Watauga, Linville and Toe rivers might be stocked with California, Dolly Varden and European Brown trout by getting a few out of Elk river and putting them in other streams and if this should be done and fishing in these streams should be prohibited by law for a few years, they would increase very rapidly and the experiment would justify the little trouble and expense incident to the transfer.

In my next letter I shall have more to say relative to these fishes.

A TRIP UP UNDER THE EVE OF THE BLUE SKIES

J. S. Robinson, in Lenoir News.
Our blessed Savior was noted for his fondness in going to the mountains to converse with the spirit of life. He was a teacher and a healer. It was necessary for Him to renew His vitality as well as His spirituality. This he did in the mountains. His example is today a vital and shining precedent for all toilers who are constantly drawing on their vitality and nerve resources, from day to day, and year to year, without thought of conserving their energies.

A visit to the mountains, with all of their beauty, grandeur and freshness, are the rare hours that lift the common man above himself; fills him with hope and aspirations; and above all, says to him, "Thou, too, art a son of God." It gives him a higher ambition for his work, and a holier stimulus for bearing the burdens of life—for himself and others.

Nature in and around Lenoir, Blowing Rock and Boone is ever becoming tired humanity to come and romp with her. The visitors and the tourists coming to this cordial and beautiful Appalachian mountain zone feels himself responding to a strange and subtle appeal almost before he is well into the heart of the beauty, invigoration, and under the eves of the sky. If he comes up here and witnesses the first burst of sunlight as it tips with splendor grand old Grandfather mountain, and many others that point heavenward like the spires of great cathedrals, his blood is set a-tinkling and the manacles of care and worry are thrown off like an outer garment, and he beholds the regal Blue Ridge mountains with awe and bewilderment.

Leaving Lenoir, the little gem city, with a panorama of mountains surrounding it, on Saturday last, accompanied by the editor of the News-Topic, Fred H. May, and Hil Powell, who knows how to manipulate a machine as well as he does a printing office, I made a visit to Blowing Rock and Boone. Six years have made wonderful changes in the appearance of the Rock surroundings. Man has helped nature to make it more attractive. The development of May View Park by W. L. Alexander is a marvel of wonderful realities—a veritable wonderland among the clouds. There are wonderful scenic drives, shaded promenades, lover's lanes and Cupid's bowers.

On to Boone, with thee feasting upon mountain scenery, delighting the soul. The breezes are cool, bracing and invigorating. Boone has taken on new life—improving, building, and brushing away old buildings, and the town in the clouds is full of visitors watching her grow. I saw a train of cars come in to Boone, and it was as busy, and made as much fuss as one down in the lowlands. It is a narrow gauge road, but there is nothing narrow about its business capacity and mode of attending to it.

R. C. Rivers, the genial editor of The Watauga Democrat—the only weekly paper in Watauga—flows on in tranquility as cheerily and peacefully as his name indicates, but he has imbibed the new spirit of Boone and made his residence take on new improvements. His office is as calm as a mountain cove, with all the beauties of the scenery by which he is surrounded. It is the only newspaper office we know of that is adorned with fine works of art, of nature and animal life. They are from the talented brush of his daughter, Miss Velma Rivers, who is an artist that would create a furor were her work displayed in the salons of New York.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Japan, Reassured, Is Expected to Enter the Conference at Washington.

MAY BAR SOME QUESTIONS

Britain Offers Southern Ireland Dominion Rule Within Empire—New Crisis Over Upper Silesia—Governor of Illinois Indicted for Alleged Embezzlement.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Japan, self-conscious, rather suspicious and knowing both the strength and the weakness of her position in the Orient, has been withholding her acceptance of President Harding's invitation to the Washington conference in so far as the discussion of Pacific problems is concerned. But repeated conversations between Secretary Hughes and Ambassador Shidehara are serving to dissipate her vague objections and it is believed her complete acceptance will not be much longer delayed. Mr. Hughes made it clear to the ambassador that the sovereignty of Japan can assert itself at the conference as freely as that of any other power, that the United States has no disposition to draw hard and fast lines with regard to the subjects that shall be discussed and that it would be most unfortunate if a hostile or suspicious attitude should develop before the conference begins. It is understood, at this writing, that the minkado's cabinet has virtually agreed that Japan shall enter the conference without restrictions, having faith in the good intentions of the other participants.

The Japanese people, however, and their prominent leaders, are not unanimous in approval of that course, many fearing the conference will be dominated by the Anglo-Saxons and will result in the strangling of Japan's economic and political development in Asia. There is also a tendency, not confined to unofficial circles, to insist that the matter of race equality be made an issue at Washington and that the emigration rights of the Japanese be definitely fixed. It is reported, too, that the cabinet has decided the Japanese representatives shall not enter into discussion of questions affecting the sovereign rights of participating nations or of the Shantung and Yap questions, which it holds were settled by the Paris peace conference. So far as Yap is concerned, it is believed the negotiations between the United States and Japan will have been concluded and a friendly settlement of the dispute reached long before the conference assembles.

The invitation to China to participate in the discussions of Pacific questions has brought on some complications. In the first place it is responsible for much of Japan's suspicion. Then, too, it was directed of course to the Peking government and now Dr. Sun Yat Sen's constitutional government of South China protests, through its representative in Washington, that the Peking government is not qualified to represent the whole of China and the Canton government also should be asked to participate.

Premier Lloyd George. It is announced in London, will attend the conference unless the unforeseen happens. With him, presumably, will be Foreign Secretary Curzon; and it is likely the dominion premiers will be there too, though the British empire will be represented as a unit. Great Britain has abandoned its tentative plan to have a preliminary conference in London on Far Eastern matters.

"President" Eamonn de Valera had another meeting with Premier Lloyd George Thursday, and soon thereafter departed for Ireland carrying the government's final offer of home rule for the island within the empire, practically like that enjoyed by South Africa.

This he will submit to the Irish "republicans" whose decision, he has asserted, he will abide by. The plan was first given in detail to the British cabinet and received its almost unanimous approval. Premier Smuts of South Africa again had taken a hand in the settlement and had suggested fiscal alterations which were adopted.

Thus the prospects for Irish peace are fairly good, despite the fact that Ulster and the extreme Unionists remain to be satisfied. Sir James Craig, the Ulster premier, after meeting Lloyd George in London, returned to Belfast to consult his government. He declared Ulster would not yield its right of self-determination, that its separation from southern Ireland was an accomplished fact, and that "it now only remains for Mr. de Valera and the British people to come to terms regarding the area outside of

that of which I am prime minister." He emphatically repudiated the Sinn Fein argument that Ulster is in the minority and must bow to the majority in Ireland, admitting the unity of the island and accepting self government, if it gets it, from Ireland as a whole. Up to date De Valera and his colleagues have not abandoned this Sinn Fein position. It remains to be seen which side will yield. For the moment, at least, the attitude of the people of southern Ireland is more peaceful and conciliatory than that of the northern Irish.

Upper Silesia comes to the front again, with prospects of renewed trouble which may result in another outbreak of hostilities and even in a break among the entente allies. Convinced that the situation there was extremely critical, France asked Great Britain and Italy to join her in sending reinforcements to the region. The British foreign office replied belittling the danger and proposing that a meeting of the supreme council be held on July 27. To this Premier Briand responded with a note announcing that France intended to reinforce the Upper Silesian contingent and again asking Great Britain and Italy to follow suit, insisting on the necessity of a committee of experts to hold a meeting immediately to investigate Upper Silesia and to draft a frontier, and announcing that France was not prepared for a supreme council meeting until the experts have reached a decision, and the allies are in a position to enforce the decision as to the Upper Silesian boundary by adequate forces in the disputed territory. Dispatches from Paris said 10,000 troops were to be sent at once to Upper Silesia, with artillery, tanks and planes.

There was a chance that America would be called on to mediate, our position in rejoining the supreme council was that we would take no part in questions affecting territorial and frontier adjustments unless general peace were threatened. Some diplomats believe that point has been reached. Naturally there is intense satisfaction in German official circles over the prospects of a split among members of the entente.

The advance of the Greeks in Asia Minor has been continuous, the Turk Nationalists retiring before it without putting up many serious fights. Last week King Constantine's forces reached and occupied the important railway junction of Eski-Shehr. This cuts the rail route to Angora, the capital of the Kemalists, but the railways already have been destroyed. Military experts in Constantinople believe the Turks plan to draw on the Greeks until their lines are unduly extended and then try to exhaust them by a series of irregular attacks.

In Albania the Mirdites, a Christian tribe, have proclaimed an independent republic and elected a president. The Albanian government has ordered a general mobilization to repress the rebellion of the Mirdites.

The United States has been soundly rebuffed by the German government on the proposal to negotiate a separate peace in accordance with President Harding's program. The pact, it is understood, will embody such features of the Versailles treaty as are not of settlement of war accounts to be virtually identical with those imposed by the allies. It is believed Berlin

will see the wisdom of signing such a treaty without great delay.

Meanwhile a movement for the recall of the American troops in Germany has started in the senate. Mr. Borah introduced a resolution calling on the secretary of war for all data as to the size of the army of occupation, the cost of maintaining it and the payments of the German government for its expenses. The senate promptly adopted the resolution without a roll call or a dissenting voice.

The tariff bill, having been passed by the house, is now before the senate but if present plans are followed that body will not act on it finally until legislation to revive taxes has been enacted. This is in accord with the understood wish of the administration. The prospect for considerably lower taxes, however, was dimmed somewhat by the rather startling statements made by A. D. Lasker, new chairman of the shipping board. He asserted that his investigations have revealed the fact that the board operated last fiscal year at a net loss of \$350,000,000, and predicted that during the present fiscal year the loss from operations alone will be \$150,000,000. Mr. Lasker said the records of the board were in deplorable condition and that if it had been a private business concern the corporation would have been in receiver's hands long ago. He indicated that appropriations of \$300,000,000 would be needed for this year, but later he asked congress for only \$125,000,000 for the next six months. The formal request for this sum was made through Director of Budget Dawes and with the approval of President Harding.

Proposed to quick action by a preliminary report of the special commis-

sion on soldiers' relief, which scored the government for neglect of disabled veterans, the senate on Wednesday passed the Sweet bill without a dissenting vote. An amendment was adopted designed to transfer from the ex-service men to the government the burden of proof in establishing the origin of disabilities. In some other respects the bill as passed by the house was altered. As passed by the senate the measure provides: For the creation of a veterans' bureau, responsible directly to the President, consolidating all soldier relief agencies; for the decentralization of the compensation and insurance machinery now operated by the war risk bureau, and for the liberalization of compensation awards so as to relieve any former soldier suffering from ailments for which the war service was responsible.

Director of the Budget Dawes has informed President Harding that it will be possible to save about \$112,512,628 in the government expenditures for the current year. This will be done mainly through curtailing departmental forces and equipment, and the work toward this end already is well under way. The largest estimated saving—\$30,342,119—will be in the Treasury department. In the Interior department it will be \$19,827,101; war risk bureau, \$16,534,523; War department, \$15,000,000; Navy department, \$10,047,501; postal service, \$14,920,421, and so on through the list.

Illinois provides a sensation of considerable magnitude through the indictment of her governor, Len Small, and lieutenant governor, Fred E. Sterling. These officials, together with Verne Curtis, a banker, are accused of fraud, conspiracy and embezzlement of state funds, the alleged crimes being committed, according to the charges, when Small and Sterling held the position of state treasurer. Briefly, it is charged that Small and Sterling made loans of millions of dollars of state funds to Curtis' so-called bank, which had not functioned as a bank since 1908; that Curtis purchased with the money short-time notes of the Chicago packers which netted him about 8 per cent interest; that the state received only 2 per cent on the loans made to Curtis, and that the accused misappropriated the rest of the profits. Of course, both Small and Sterling protest their entire innocence, the governor hating the whole affair to the scheme of his political enemies, whose fight on him, both before and since his election, has been bitter.

GREAT EXPOSITION SEPTEMBER 12-29

A MUSIC FESTIVAL COMBINED WITH MANUFACTURING AND EDUCATIONAL EVENT.

BAND CONCERTS ON EACH DAY

Vocal Music Feature is Emphasized in Announcing the Practical Completion of Musical Program.

Charlotte, N. C.—That the Made-in-the-Carolinas Exposition, to be held in Charlotte September 12 to 29, will attain recognition as a music festival as well as a manufacturing and educational event of great importance was emphasized today by David Owens, chairman of the entertainment committee, when announcing practical completion of the elaborate musical program.

Each day the exposition will be featured by band concerts, vocal quartette numbers and instrumental solos. The elaborate scale on which the exposition will be held, the demand of the people of the Carolinas for artists of high rank, and the important service this exposition will render to the effort to promote the manufacturing industries of the Carolinas and impress upon the public their economic importance impelled Mr. Owens to go to extremes of expense in contracting with artists in music.

Outstanding as a musical feature will be the afternoon and evening concerts by the New York City official concert band, under the direction of A. H. Nussbaum. Mr. Owens has also arranged for the organization especially for this show of two vocal mixed quartettes, each composed of artists of note.

Soldiers' Home is Madhouse. Washington. — The Johnson City, Tenn., old soldiers' home was characterized as a "madhouse" and the Fort Henry, Md., hospital was described as being fit only for a sewerage disposal plant by Colonel R. Forbes, war risk director, before a senate committee in a plea for broader powers to meet the hospital needs of world war veterans.

MILLIONS BEHIND SMUGGLING DEAL

FEDERAL AUTHORITIES ALONG ATLANTIC COAST TAUNTED BY WHISKEY RUNNERS.

RUM HUNTING FLEET WANTED

Fishermen Along the Coast Are Reaping Rich Harvest by Running the Forbidden Cargoes Ashore.

New York. — Federal authorities along the Atlantic coast rebuked their vigilance over tramp ships following disclosures of evidence indicating the existence of at least two gigantic international whiskey smuggling rings, one having headquarters in this city and one in Atlantic City. Aid of the Navy Department was also being sought in an effort to build up a rum-hunting fleet, capable of coping with the mysterious ships and their allied fishing smacks, which are alleged to have loaded hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of contraband liquor at secluded points under cover of darkness.

A tramp steamer cruised stealthily outside the three-line limit of Atlantic City, according to reports received here, and lured federal agents by breaking out pennants saying, "Let down your money and come ashore with it." The steamer slipped away as night fell and it was thought she was headed for some deserted point, where fishing vessels could work unobserved at the task of lightering her cargo ashore.

Fishermen along the coast, according to Mr. Ross, are reaping a rich harvest running the forbidden cargoes ashore. They work almost entirely at night, he said.

Greeks Follow Up Victory. Athens (Greek Official Agency). — The Greeks in Asia Minor have been following up energetically the victory they gained over the Turkish Nationalists in the fighting brought on by the attempt of the Kemalites to recapture the key position of Eski-Shehr, on the Bagdad railway.

Government Gets Two-Thirds. Washington. — People who are making a million dollars or more net income are paying the government practically two-thirds of it in taxes, according to preliminary statistics of income for 1919 issued by the Internal Revenue Bureau.

Linney Gets Favorable Report. Washington. — Favorable report was ordered by the senate judiciary committee on the contested nomination of Frank A. Linney, republican state chairman of North Carolina, to be a federal district attorney.

Maharaja to Visit America. Paris. — The Maharaja of Holkar, ruler of Indore and one of the wealthiest princes of India, plans to visit the United States this fall if the immigration authorities will permit him to bring in his two wives.

On Way to Frozen North. Sydney, N. S. W. — Donald B. MacMillan and his party of explorers have sailed from North Sydney for the far north where they will spend two years among the snows of Baffin Land.

Villa Deals in Oil. Mexico City. — Francisco Villa, once Mexico's most noted bandit, has started dabbling in oil. A company was organized to exploit some lands in the Laguna region and Villa is said to have invested \$200,000 in the company.

Child Has Arrived at Rome. Rome. — Richard Washburn Child, newly-appointed American Ambassador to Italy, has arrived here, accompanied by his family and his secretary.

No Agreement With France. London. — Great Britain has not, as had been reported here, sent a note to France agreeing, with reservations, to the dispatch of French troops to Upper Silesia.

Auto and Trolley Smashup. Burlington, N. J. — Three persons were killed and a fourth probably fatally injured when an automobile in which they were riding collided with a trolley car running between Camden and Trenton.

Governor Small Still Defiant. Springfield, Ill. — Governor Small returned to Springfield unchanged in his determination to resist arrest on warrants charging him with embezzlement and conspiracy to defraud the state.

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